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of capture molecules, performing a reaction leading to a precipitate formed at the location of the binding, determining the possible presence of precipitate(s) in discrete region(s), and correlating the presence of the precipitate(s) at the discrete region(s) with the identification and/or a quantification of the target compound.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 14, 22 and 23 as follows:

B2
Sub C1
1. (Twice amended) A method for the identification and/or the quantification of a target compound obtained from a sample, comprising the steps of:

putting into contact the target compound with a capture molecule in order to allow a specific binding between said target compound with a capture molecule, said capture molecule being fixed upon a surface of a solid support according to an array comprising a density of at least 20 discrete regions per cm^2 , each of said discrete regions being fixed with one species of capture molecules,

performing a reaction leading to formation of a precipitate within a few micrometers from the bound target compound,

determining the possible presence of precipitate(s) in said discrete region(s), and correlating the presence of the precipitate(s) at said discrete region(s) with the identification and/or a quantification of said target compound.

Sub C2
B3
14. (Twice amended) A diagnostic and/or quantification apparatus comprising:

a solid support comprising an array comprising at least 20 discrete regions per cm^2 , each of said regions being fixed with one species of a capture molecule which recognizes a target compound, target compounds bound to some of said capture molecules, and a precipitate present within a few micrometers of said bound target compounds;

a detection and/or quantification device for detecting said precipitate; and

a computer programmed to collect the results obtained from said detection and/or quantification device.

B4
22. (Twice amended) The apparatus according to Claim 15, which comprises, placed above the solid support, one camera and a first illuminant source and, under said camera, a second illuminant source placed under the solid support, the two illuminant sources being positioned to allow detection of said precipitate(s).

23. (Twice amended) A computer comprising program code stored thereon for performing the steps of determining the possible presence of a precipitate in discrete regions and correlating the presence of said precipitate at the discrete regions with the identification and/or the quantification of a target compound, according to the method of Claim 1, when said program code is run on said computer.

Please add the following new claims:

B5
28. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said precipitate is formed on the surface of a particle associated with said target compound.

29. (New) The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising a device for reading information recorded upon said solid support.

30. (New) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein said device for reading information comprises a bar code reader.

31. (New) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein said computer is programmed to recognize discrete regions bearing said capture molecules.

32. (New) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said computer is programmed to detect and/or quantitate said target compounds.

REMARKS

Objection to the Abstract of the disclosure

As requested by the Examiner, the abstract has been amended to be a single paragraph and to conform to the standards set forth in MPEP § 608.01(b).